

Automated Commercial Environment—Requirements Recommendation

Date:	06/13/03
Number:	ACT - 10
Requestor:	Account Management Committee – Broker Account Subcommittee
Customs Co-Chair:	Jim Casler (Committee) Kimra Coons (Subcommittee)
Trade Co-Chair:	Lori Goldberg (Committee) Jake Holzscheiter (Subcommittee)

Requirement

It is common for one broker while working on behalf of an Importer to have or need access to another filer's data. This information is only accessed when specifically authorized or provided by the Importer. The day to day occurrences happen in a variety of functions. The most common occurrences are when the Broker is involved in the following activities or services, many of which relate to activities associated with a Broker using a National Permit.

- Consulting services
- Drawback services
- Reconciliation services
- Remote Location filing
- Out Port Brokerage
- Post Entry Activity

In order for the Broker to efficiently provide the above services it is necessary for a Broker's portal to specially list the importers that have granted them access to view all or certain parts of their ACE data (regardless of filer.) This list should then provide direct access to such data through the brokers own web portal.

The ability for one filer to view another filer's data should be controlled by access privileges which include the ability to grant access by IR, by filer, by port, by method of transportation and by date ranges. Restrictions could apply to specific entry types or in the case of reconciliation entries to those entries that had been flagged for reconciliation.

If broker B files all reconciliations for importer A, when either broker A or importer A flags an entry for reconciliation retroactively or de-flags an entry, then ACE needs to notify broker B. ACE must build maximum flexibility into the notification process.

When one broker takes over an account from another broker, they will need access to that broker's data. ACE must also provide for that.

The Broker should not have to access the specific Importer's portal in order to gain access to the Importer's data which they have been granted access to view. Doing so would require separate logins and passwords for each Importer that they work with. This would become a significant administrative burden to both the Broker and Importer.

Security requirements would need to be in place to ensure that the broker was flagged in the importer's account as having access to all applicable entries for the appropriate time period.

Business Need

Brokers will need information from all 7501s flagged for reconciliation to file the reconciliation for the importer. If the information is not available electronically then they would need to collect paper copies of all of the entries from the importer. Importers often have multiple brokers filing entries but only one broker filing the reconciliations covering all entries. The paper process is very slow and can result in missing the deadline for filing the reconciliation or the broker filing a no-change reconciliation which provides additional time. If the broker is filing protests for the importer covering entries filed by more than one broker, they would need access to the appropriate entries.

The Broker should not have to access the specific Importer's portal in order to gain access to the Importer's data which they have been granted access to view. Doing so would require separate logins and passwords for each Importer that they work with. This would become a significant administrative burden to both the Broker and Importer.

Technical Need

The Broker should not have to access the specific Importer's portal in order to gain access to the Importer's data which they have been granted access to view. Doing so would require separate logins and passwords for each Importer that they work with. Security requirements would need to be in place to ensure that the broker was flagged in the importer's account as having access to all applicable entries for the appropriate time period. Importers should also be able to download a particular entry or entries and email the information to the broker when needed for protests as an example.

Benefits

Improved efficiency for both the brokers and the importers. Reduction in handling paper entries. More timely and accurate filing of reconciliations and etc.

Risks

Customs must have the necessary security in place to ensure proper access to all parties. Performance is potentially a risk depending on how fine a level of security we define.

Related Subcommittees

Entry Committee

Priority: **Critical** ☒ **High** ☐ **Medium** ☐ **Low** ☐